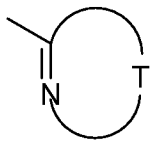
Amendments to the Claims

1-38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) A compound according to claim ~~38~~59, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein ~~the dotted line together with the solid line forms a single bond, and~~ the absolute configuration at the asymmetric centre α to the amide carbonyl carbon is (*R*).

40. (currently amended) A compound according to claim ~~36~~59, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^3 is fluoro or hydrogen and R^4 is hydrogen.

41. (currently amended) A compound according to claim ~~36~~59, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the group of formula

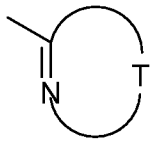


is 2-thiazolyl;

R^3 is 5-fluoro; and

R^4 is hydrogen.

42. (currently amended) A compound according to claim ~~36~~59, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the group of formula



is 2-pyrazinyl;

R^3 is hydrogen; and

R^4 is hydrogen.

43. (canceled)

44. (currently amended) A compound selected from:

2-(4-cyclopropanesulfonylphenyl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)-*N*-thiazol-2-ylpropionamide;

2-(4-cyclopropanesulfonylphenyl)-*N*-(5-fluorothiazol-2-yl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)propionamide;

2-(4-cyclopropanesulfonylphenyl)-*N*-pyrazin-2-yl-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)propionamide;

~~(*E*)-2-(4-cyclopropanesulfonylphenyl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)-*N*-thiazol-2-ylacrylamide;~~

~~(*E*)-2-(4-methansulfonylphenyl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)-*N*-thiazol-2-ylacrylamide;~~

~~(2*R*)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)-2-(4-methanesulfonylphenyl)-*N*-thiazol-2-ylpropionamide;~~

(2*R*)-2-(4-cyclobutanesulfonylphenyl)-*N*-(5-fluorothiazol-2-yl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)propionamide;

(2*R*)-2-(4-cyclobutanesulfonylphenyl)-*N*-pyrazin-2-yl-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)propionamide;

(2*R*)-2-(4-cyclopropanesulfonylphenyl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)-*N*-thiazol-2-ylpropionamide;

(2*R*)-2-(4-cyclobutanesulfonylphenyl)-*N*-pyrazin-2-yl-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)propionamide;

(2*R*)-2-(4-cyclobutanesulfonylphenyl)-*N*-(5-fluorothiazol-2-yl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)propionamide; and

~~(*E*)-2-(4-cyclopropanesulfonylphenyl)-*N*-(5-fluorothiazol-2-yl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)acrylamide;~~

~~(*E*)-*N*-(5-fluorothiazol-2-yl)-2-(4-methanesulfonylphenyl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)acrylamide;~~

~~(*E*)-*N*-(5-fluorothiazol-2-yl)-2-[4-(propane-1-sulfonyl)phenyl]-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)acrylamide;~~

2-(4-cyclobutanesulfonylphenyl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)-*N*-thiazol-2-ylpropionamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

45. (previously presented) A compound consisting of (2*R*)-2-(4-cyclopropanesulfonylphenyl)-*N*-(5-fluorothiazol-2-yl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)propionamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

46. (previously presented) A compound consisting of (2*R*)-2-(4-cyclopropanesulfonylphenyl)-N-pyrazin-2-yl-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)propionamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

47. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim ~~36~~59, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

48. (withdrawn, currently amended) A method of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a condition where activation of GK is desirable comprising a step of administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim ~~36~~59, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

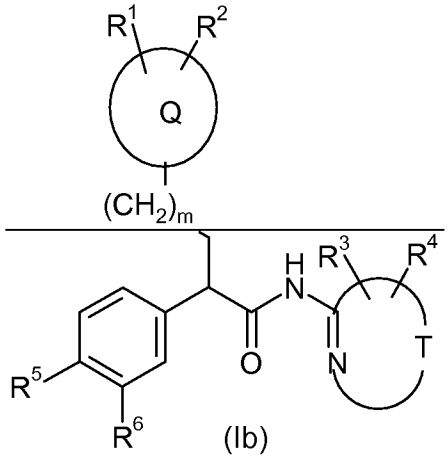
49. (withdrawn, currently amended) A method of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of hyperglycemia or diabetes comprising a step of administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim ~~36~~59, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

50. (withdrawn, currently amended) The method according to claim 49 wherein the compound according to claim ~~36~~ 59 is administered in combination with one or more other antihyperglycemic agents or anti-diabetic agents.

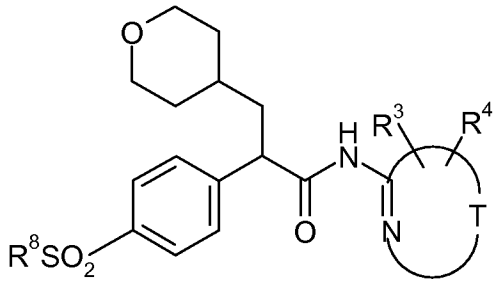
51. (withdrawn, currently amended) A method of prevention of diabetes in a human demonstrating pre-diabetic hyperglycemia or impaired glucose tolerance comprising a step of administering an effective prophylactic amount of a compound according to claim ~~36~~59, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

52. (canceled)

53. (withdrawn, currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (Ib)

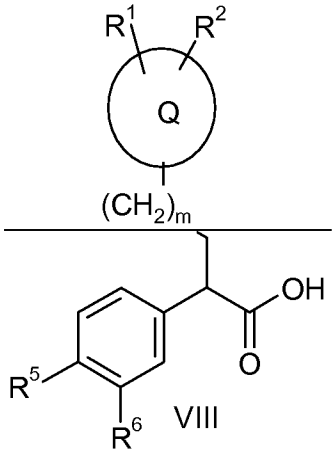


(Ib)

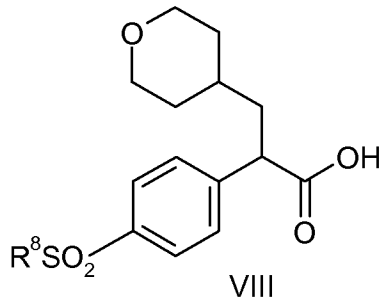


(Ib)

said process comprising a step of the condensation of a compound of Formula (VIII):

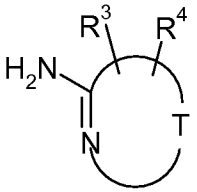


VIII



VIII

with a compound of Formula (V):

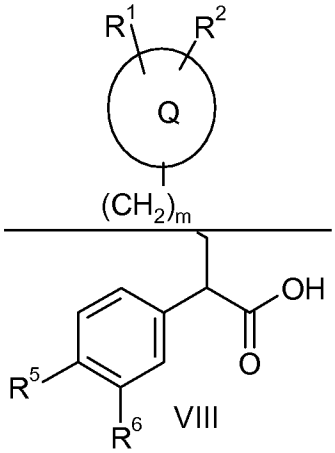


V

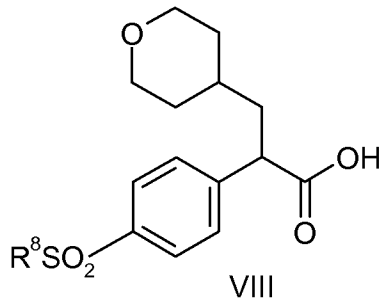
wherein ~~Q,~~ T together with the -N=C- to which it is attached, ~~R^1 to R^6~~, R^3, R^4, and ~~m~~ R^8 are as defined in claim ~~36~~59.

54 55. (canceled)

56. (currently amended) A compound of formula (VIII):



VIII



VIII

wherein ~~Q is 4-tetrahydropyranyl;~~

~~R^1 and R^2 are hydrogen;~~

~~R^5 is SO_2R^8;~~

~~R^6 is hydrogen;~~

R^8 is a C_{3-4}cycloalkyl group~~; and~~

~~m is 0~~.

57. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 56 of Formula (VIII) selected from:

2-(4-cyclopropanesulfonylphenyl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl) propionic acid;

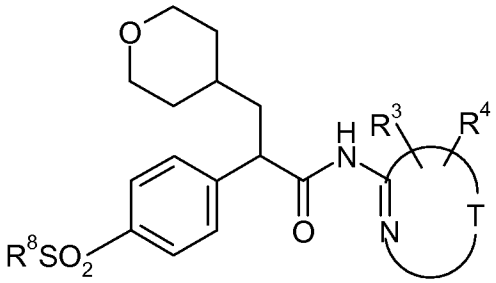
2-(4-cyclobutanesulfonylphenyl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)propionic acid;

(2*R*)-2-(4-cyclopropanesulfonylphenyl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)propionic acid; and

(2*R*)-2-(4-cyclobutanesulfonylphenyl)-3-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)propionic acid.

58. (canceled)

59. (new) A compound of Formula (I):



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

T together with the -N=C- to which it is attached forms a 2-pyrazinyl or 2-thiazolyl ring;

R^3 and R^4 each independently are hydrogen or fluoro; and

R^8 is a C_{3-4}cycloalkyl group.